



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 26 2009

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
FAA Experimental Permits PEIS
c/o ICF International
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031

Dear Ms. Zee:

In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Streamlining the Processing of Experimental Permit Applications (CEQ #20090102).

Under the proposed action, FAA would issue experimental permits for the launch and reentry of reusable suborbital rockets from both FAA-licensed and non-licensed launch sites using this programmatic EIS as the basis for determining the potential environmental impacts of issuing experimental permits. FAA analyzed the potential impacts of issuing an experimental permit for the operation of reusable suborbital rockets from anywhere in the United States and abroad, and the potential site-specific impacts of permitted launches from seven FAA-licensed commercial launch sites and one Federal range. FAA can tier future environmental documents from this programmatic EIS to focus on environmental impacts specific to an applicant's proposed operations under an experimental permit.

EPA believes that this programmatic EIS provides an adequate discussion of the potential environmental impacts of issuing experimental permits. Therefore, EPA has no objection to the proposed action discussed in this draft EIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this draft EIS. The staff contact for this review is Ken Mittelholtz (202-564-7156).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Susan E. Bromm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Susan Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities